

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I shall do my best. I think it is possible.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal (*Vadakkancheri*): Has the Government any idea as to the probable expenditure that will be required for this?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): We have got some funds for water works and I am sure I will be able to attend to this.

Mr. K. Kochukunhan Kaimal (*Vadakkancheri*): It is a work which can be carried on with Rs. 100 or 200. It is a dire necessity.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I know it will come to about Rs. 180 or 200. That will be attended to completely.

PAZHANJI—LIGHTING IN.

27. Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether the Government have read an article in the Gomathi dated 20th May 1939 written by a certain gentleman from Pazhanji pointing out the necessity of locating the petromax light given to Pazhanji at Chittathkadavu;

(b) will the Government be pleased to grant one or two additional petromax lights also to Pazhanji and locate one at Chittathkadavu and another at the turning to the old church from the eastern bazaar, Pazhanji, the busiest part of the town;

(c) whether the Government has passed orders to open the road pointed out in the article at least before the end of 1115?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): (a) Yes.

(b) The matter will be considered next year.

(c) No.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Regarding sub-division (c) I may be allowed to point out to the Hon'ble Minister that that road is a very important road, since it will turn out to be an inter-statal road when it is extended up to the British border. It is also a road by which people can avoid danger from fire. So I would request the Hon'ble Minister to be pleased to take up this matter this year itself.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): I am sorry I cannot commit myself to that course. But I will see to it.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu (*Kunnamkulam*): Year before last even tender was invited and it was dropped somehow. We had come to that stage.

VILLAGE LIBRARIES—PARTICULARS REGARDING.

28. Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(a) how many village libraries are there in the State ;

(b) what is the average cost for each library ?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): (a) 31 (28 village libraries and 3 grant-in-aid village libraries).

(b) Rs. 129 in respect of village libraries (Rs. 50 grant, Rs. 55 bonus and Rs. 24 lighting charges). Grant-in-aid village libraries were opened only recently and it is not possible therefore to find out their average cost now.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Why is a bonus paid to the librarians and to whom are they given now ?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): Bonus is given to 2 masters. Many of the libraries are located in schools. The Headmaster is given, I think, Rs. 25. Another master is given Rs. 15 and a peon is also given some allowance. Rs. 24 is given for lighting in the library.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): Can we not dispense with the payment of bonus ? Is it not the function of the teacher also to look after the library ? Why is bonus necessary ?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): We are reconsidering that aspect. I perfectly agree with the hon'ble member.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): May I know whether it will not take a decade to have libraries in each village since the present progress is very very slow ?

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): This was in existence. This is not my work.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan (*Chalakkudi*): I do not blame the Minister.

Dr. A. R. Menon (*Minister for Rural Development*): The other works will be taken up next year.